

FISCAL NOTE

Bill #: SB0248

Title: Revise funding for ground water assessment

Primary

Sponsor: Tom Keating

Status: As introduced

Sponsor signature	Date	Dave Lewis, Budget Director	Date
-------------------	------	-----------------------------	------

Fiscal Summary

	<u>FY2000 Difference</u>	<u>FY2001 Difference</u>
Expenditures:		
Revenue:		
State Special Revenue		
Renewable Resources (02272)	(666,000)	(666,000)
Groundwater assessment (02289)	190,227	190,010
Other - RIT Trust	475,773	475,990
Net Impact on General Fund Balance:	0	0

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	
	X	Significant Local Gov. Impact		X	Technical Concerns
	X	Included in the Executive Budget	X		Significant Long-Term Impacts

Fiscal Analysis

ASSUMPTIONS:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

1. Under current law, 45.9% of the resource indemnity groundwater assessment tax (RIGWAT) is deposited into the Resource Indemnity Trust Fund.
2. RIGWAT taxes will be \$2,426,000 in FY 2000 and \$2,473,000 in FY 2001.
3. Metal mine taxes will be \$6,077,586 in FY 2000 and \$5,786,207 in FY 2001.
4. Under current law, the estimated balance of the Resource Indemnity Trust Fund will be \$97.3 million in FY 2000 and \$98.3 million in FY 2001.
5. Under the proposal in SB 248, the estimated balance for the Resource Indemnity Trust Fund would be \$97.8 million in FY 2000 and \$99.2 million in FY 2001.

(continued)

6. Under current law, allocated metal mine taxes and RIGWAT taxes will provide a total of \$952,003 over the biennium (\$475,773 in FY 2000 and \$475,990 in FY 2001) to the groundwater assessment account.
7. Under proposed SB 248, the Bureau of Mines and Geology will be fully funded from revenues allocated first to the renewable resource special revenue account and then transferred to the groundwater assessment account.
8. Under SB 248, the programs funded out of renewable resources state special revenue will lose \$666,000 of revenue per year. These include the Water Court, DNRC, Flathead Basin Commission, and State Library Natural Resource Information System.

Commissioner of Higher Education

9. Under current law, the ground water assessment program receives 14.1% of RIGWAT and \$133,307 in FY 2000 and \$127,297 in FY 2001 from the metal mine taxes.
10. This bill would eliminate those transfers and replace the above with a transfer of \$666,000 each year from the renewable resource state special revenue to the ground water assessment account established in 85-2-905.

FISCAL IMPACT:

	<u>FY2000 Difference</u>	<u>FY2001 Difference</u>
<u>Revenues:</u>		
General Fund (01)	0	0
State Special Revenue (02)		
Renewable Resources	(666,000)	(666,000)
Groundwater Assessment	190,227	190,010
Other - RIT Trust	475,773	475,990

EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES:

1. SB 248 provides stable funding for the groundwater assessment program administered by the Bureau of Mines and Geology. This assessment program will provide valuable information to local governments about groundwater within their jurisdiction.

LONG-RANGE IMPACTS:

SB 248 would allow the groundwater assessment program to be funded at the level it is authorized to operate.